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Message Text

SECRET

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73
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:SKG
APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTONJR
P:JJSISCO (DRAFT)
S/S -O:P SHANKLE
---------- 031253
O 250237Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 281497

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 15234

1. YOU SHOULD TELL TAQLA THAT YOUR REPORT OF DECEMBER 21 CONVERSATION WITH HIM HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO SECRETARY'S ATTENTION AND THAT THIS INSTRUCTION HAS HIS PERSONAL APPROVAL.

2. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT FURTHER LETTER FROM PRESIDENT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. YOU SHOULD DRAW TAQLA'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT PRESIDENT FRANGIE HAS NOT REPEAT NOT YET REPLIED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 15. IN ANY EVENT, WE FIND IT INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT AFTER SECRETARY HAS WRITTEN TAQLA TWICE ON THIS MATTER LEBANESE SHOULD PERSIST IN ASKING FOR LETTER FROM PRESIDENT. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE ALREADY GONE TO ALL REASONABLE LENGTHS TO MAKE AMENDS TO GOL FOR UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT IN NEW YORK.

3. AS TO SUGGESTION THAT YOU BE ABSENT FROM LEBANON ON
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JANARY 1, YOU SHOULD TELL TAQLA THAT WE FIND IDEA THAT U.S.

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AMBASSADOR WOULD NOT BE INVITED TO OFFICIAL RECEPTION GIVEN BY PRESIDENT OF LEBANON AN INDIGNITY INCOMPATIBLE WITH FRIENDSHIP USG HAS EXTENDED LEBANON DURING ENTIRE SPAN OF ITS STATEHOOD. SUCH ACTION BY ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT WOULD

NORMALLY HAVE SERIOUSLY DAMAGING EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. NONETHELESS, OUT OF SPECIAL REGARD FOR LEBANON AND FOR TAQLA PERSONALLY, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A GESTURE ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY TAQLA IF THIS WOULD RESULT IN PUTTING PROBLEM BEHIND US ONCE AND FOR ALL. IF FOREIGN MINISTER CAN GIVE FIRM COMMITMENT THAT YOU WILL BE RECEIVED BY FRANGIE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15 AND THAT THIS WILL CLOSE THE MATTER, SECRETARY IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE YOU TO BE ABSENT FROM COUNTRY ON JANUARY 1 AND CHARGE HOUGHTON TO ATTEND BRIEFLY PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S RECEPTION. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO TAQLA THAT IF SUCH IRONCLAD COMMITMENT CANNOT BE GIVEN, WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RECALL YOU AGAIN FOR CONSULTATIONS. IN SUCH EVENT GOL SHOULD NOT EXPECT RETURN OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD.
KISSINGER

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